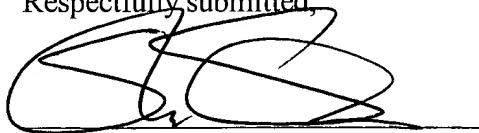


Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claims of the present application are believed to be in a condition for allowance and an early notice to such effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,




Steven L. Schmid
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12/31/03
Date

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Steve Schmid